dispose of larger numbers of applications for waste lands. There were only 8 applications for loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation, IV of 1066. I am aware that some of the provisions of this Regulation are unworkable in practice and stand in urgent need of amendment. The appointment of an additional Head Sirkar Vakil has been recently sanctioned, in view to the revision of several of the Regulations, and his attention will be drawn to the defective nature of the law on this subject. The pay of the lowest grade of village accountants was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per mensem. A special staff was sanctioned to work off the *puduval* arrears in the Todupuzha taluk and in the hilly *pakuthies* of the Chengannur taluk. The ryots of the Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Kalkulam taluks were exempted from the liability to pay half the cost of Minor irrigation works. The date of opening the Kodayar main channels and the Reservoir was changed from the 1st of June to the 20th of May, in the interests of the ryots concerned. Revised rules were issued for the sale of waste lands on the hills for coffee and tea cultivation and the rules for the grant of grass lands to the proprietors of coffee and tea Estates for homestead and farmstead, at certain concessional rates, were cancelled. The re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk made good progress, the outturn being 48·9 square miles, against 28·4 square miles in 1088. Towards the close of 1089, the system of land records maintenance was thoroughly examined and it was decided to simplify the scheme and confine its scope to the detection of encroachments on Sirkar lands and to the demarcation and survey of sub-divisions effected during and subsequent to Settlement. Revised rules have been passed on the subject and the simplified scheme will be extended to the Devicolam Division also. The Land Revenue Manual, for the compilation of which Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar, Dewan Peishkar, has been specially deputed, is nearing completion and will be shortly published.

7. **Forest.**—There was a net decrease of 325 acres under Reserved Forests, the total area of Reserved Forests at the end of the year being 2,337 square miles and 209 acres. As you are already aware, the policy of the Government is *not* to extend the area under reservation, except in cases of absolute necessity. The net revenue of the department rose from Rs. 5,42,501 to Rs. 5,64,460. Government trust that this accession to the forest revenue will be steadily maintained under the administration of Mr. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar, M. A., F. L. S., F. Z. S., whose services have been lent to the State by the British Government, for employment as Conservator of Forests in Travancore.

8. **Salt.**—The net revenue from salt rose from Rs. 10,37,962 to Rs. 11,34,454, *i. e.*, by Rs. 96,492. The selling price of home salt was slightly raised and a uniform rate of Re. 1 As. 10 per maund was fixed for both home and Tuticorin salt in factories, depôts and bankshalls. There was no change in the price of Bombay salt. The average consumption of salt per head of population rose from 23·4 lbs to 23·7 lbs. The experiment of engaging special contractors for the import and direct sale of Bombay salt having proved unsatisfactory, it was given up. Bombay salt alone was sold in the Munambam Depôt. Similarly, the import of Tuticorin salt in large quantities appeared to be of doubtful advantage, and it has been resolved to reduce the Tuticorin supply and to increase the quantity of Bombay salt proportionately. An experimental fish-curing yard was opened at Muttam in South Travancore, salt for curing being supplied at 12 As. per maund. The experiment is being watched with interest.

9. **Excise.**—The net revenue under the heads of Abkari, Opium and Ganja, and Tobacco, rose from Rs. 27,66,312 to Rs. 30,27,512, showing an increase of Rs. 2,61,200. The excise system in regard to country liquor was in force in 32 out of the 33 taluks of the State, the taluk of Devicolam continuing to remain under the old farming system. In regard to opium and ganja, the independent shop system was introduced as an experimental measure in the Nedumangad taluk. The price of opium remained the same as in 1088, *viz.*, Bh. Rs. 40 per seer, while the price of ganja was raised from Bh. Rs. 12-As. 12 to Bh. Rs. 16-As. 4 per seer. The rules passed under the Tobacco Regulation, I of 1087, came into force from the beginning

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